

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for administering the health of a personal computer comprising:  
a provider subsystem for providing services relating to personal computer health  
status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;  
5 a health engine subsystem for processing the health status information acquired  
by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and  
a client user interface subsystem for reporting personal computer health status to a  
user in accordance with the health status notifications.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a provider interface for passing  
an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of  
corrective actions.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a  
15 provider service within the provider subsystem.
4. The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises  
task execution coordination logic for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding  
execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.
- 20 5. The system of claim 2 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises  
rules logic for specifying the instruction for corrective action.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the health engine subsystem specifies the  
25 instruction for corrective action automatically based upon the rules logic.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein the rules logic specifies an action based  
upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider  
subsystem.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a client interface for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

5 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises a health status information store for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.

10 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a security health status provider module.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a privacy health status provider module.

15 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a backup health status provider module.

20 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the provider subsystem includes a performance provider module.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the client user interface subsystem supports a user interface providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

25 15. The system of claim 1 wherein the health engine subsystem comprises an interface supporting an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

16. A method for administering the health of a personal computer comprising the steps of:

30 providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;

processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and

reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

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17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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20. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers within the provider subsystem.

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23. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

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24. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem, records corresponding to the health status information.

25. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
5 providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

26. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:  
10 supporting, by an interface of the health engine subsystem, an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

27. A computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for administering the health of a personal computer, the computer-executable instructions  
15 facilitating performing the steps of:  
providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;  
processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and  
20 reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:  
25 passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

enforcing, by task execution coordination logic, mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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31. The computer-readable medium of claim 28 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

specifying, by rules logic, the instruction for corrective action.

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32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed automatically based upon the rules logic.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the specifying step is performed based upon health status information originating from multiple providers

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within the provider subsystem.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

receiving, by a client interface of the health engine subsystem, a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

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35. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

maintaining, by a health status information store of the health engine subsystem, records corresponding to the health status information.

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36. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

providing, by a user interface of the client user interface subsystem, a health status score and a user selectable corrective action returned to the health engine subsystem.

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37. The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising computer-executable instructions facilitating performing the step of:

5 supporting, by an interface of the health engine subsystem, an extensible set of providers within the provider subsystem.

38. A system for administering the health of a personal computer comprising:  
means for providing, by a provider subsystem, services relating to personal  
computer health status, wherein the services include acquiring health status information;

10 means for processing, by a health engine subsystem, the health status information acquired by the provider subsystem and rendering health status notifications; and

means for reporting, by a client user interface subsystem, personal computer health status to a user in accordance with the health status notifications.

15 39. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for passing, by a provider interface, an instruction for corrective action from the health engine subsystem to a consumer of corrective actions.

20 40. The system of claim 39 wherein the consumer of corrective actions is a provider service within the provider subsystem.

41. The system of claim 39 further comprising:

means for enforcing mutual exclusion rules regarding execution of tasks by the consumer of corrective actions.

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42. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for receiving a request for corrective action from the client user interface subsystem.

30 43. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for maintaining records corresponding to the health status information.

44. The system of claim 38 further comprising:  
means for providing a health status score and a user selectable corrective action  
returned to the health engine subsystem.